

# Transportation Alternatives FAQ

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	Question	Response
Project Maintenance	Who is responsible for operation and maintenance (O&M) of TA projects?	It will be the responsibility of the sponsoring agency to operate and maintain the facility, including facilities located within MDT rights-of-way. O&M responsibility could change (by agreement with MDT) during project development, but the sponsoring entity will assume responsibility from the beginning.
CTEP	Can CTEP funds be included as part of the funding in a TA project application?	The CTEP program is being phased out. CTEP funds will not be available for 2015-2016 TA projects.
Match	Why will a match be required for local off-system projects, but not on-system projects? Does this mean MDT favors on-system projects?	<p>A match is required for most TA projects as per federal law (23 U.S.C. 120).</p> <p>Per federal law, eligible projects within reservation land will not need to have a match provided by the local entity sponsor.</p> <p>MDT will follow its standard match policies for programs administered by MDT which is to provide the match for all on-system projects (projects located on a designated state highway system and within MDT's right of way. Responsibility for maintenance does not factor into whether MDT can provide the match.)</p> <p>Whether a project is on or off-system is <b>not</b> part of the selection criteria, and will have no effect on project scoring. Communities are encouraged to nominate projects that fit local priorities.</p> <p>Off-system projects outside of reservation lands will be required to provide a local match of 13.42%.</p>
Match	Will the match requirement be reduced for projects that are managed by local governments or have volunteer labor?	No partial, soft, or in-kind matches will be accepted. <b>A cash match is required.</b>
Match	Will MDT absorb the match for projects that would have formerly have been eligible under SAFETEA-LU programs such as CTEP and SRTS?	No, MDT will not absorb the match for any off-system projects.
Project	Who will be responsible for	MDT will decide on a project by project basis whether to use MDT

Management	project design and administration?	staff or consultant services. MDT's consultant design bureau will administer all infrastructure TA projects. MDT's Rail, Transit and Planning will administer all non-infrastructure TA projects.
Project Management	Can my community manage the project rather than MDT?	Communities that become certified through the Local Agency Guidelines (LAG) program may manage their own federal aid projects.
Fund Allocation	Why not continue to allocate funding to local entities as was done in the CTEP process?	Per MAP-21 TA funds must be obligated through a competitive process (23 U.S.C. 213)(c)(4)(A). MDT, therefore cannot allocate funds as CTEP funds were allocated.
Fund Allocation	How will funds be distributed fairly?	Beyond the population distribution requirements in MAP-21, MDT will strive to ensure fair geographic distribution of projects and balance between urban and rural areas (i.e. not all projects in one region of the state.)
Fund Allocation	How does population figure in the allocation process?	Funding will be allocated to improvements in areas consistent with MAP-21, as follows: 25%-areas with population over 5,000 25%-areas with population under 5,000 50%-available for use in any area of the state. <i>23 USC 213(c)</i>
Fund Allocation	Why not allocate all funds based on population?	TA funds must be obligated to eligible projects submitted by eligible entities through a competitive process. (23 U.S.C. 213)(c)(4)(A). Allocating funds based entirely on population is not compliant with federal law. Projects will be awarded based on the competitive application process.
Cost	How will engineering and administration costs be determined?	Engineering and administration costs should be included as project costs in the application. For the purposes of the application and estimating costs of the project, local agencies should determine and add preliminary engineering to the project estimate. Construction administration costs of 12% of the estimated construction cost should also be added to the project cost estimate. These costs will be charged to the individual project. These costs will not be a consideration during project selection, but will be added to the construction estimate to determine the total project cost.
Evaluation	The application states that project costs will be used as criteria-what does this mean?	Project costs are only considered to determine if a project is fundable within the program. If a project has costs that exceed the annual TA funding or of a scale that prevents compliance with the suballocation provision of federal law it will not be considered. This is not an evaluation criteria that will be awarded points. This determination will be made before the scoring process begins to determine if a project advances to the scoring process.  Eligible projects of all sizes that are fundable through the program

		will be considered based on the competitive application process.
Evaluation	What size of project will be considered?	Eligible projects of all sizes that are fundable through the program will be considered based on the competitive application process.
Evaluation	Do projects with public involvement score higher than projects without public input?	Public involvement is one part of the “project risk analysis” criteria. Projects that can demonstrate public involvement and public support will likely receive higher “project risk analysis” scores than projects that cannot.
Evaluation	Will selection criteria favor projects that will serve low and middle income citizens?	Individual communities are encouraged to submit projects for consideration that fit local priorities, as well as demonstrate local involvement or support. If a community has prioritized projects that support low and middle income citizens they are encouraged to submit projects that achieve those goals.
Evaluation	Why aren’t there specific provisions for non-infrastructure projects in the scoring?	MDT feels that non-infrastructure projects are covered in the scoring. A non-infrastructure project that is well planned, able to demonstrate that it improves safety or ADA access and provides benefits to the local transportation environment may do well in scoring.
Evaluation	Why isn’t there an environmental mitigation category?	The scoring criteria are designed to be general enough that a wide range of projects can demonstrate merit. If an environmental project or stormwater management is the goal a narrative can be created detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-how it fits into the local transportation plan or how it rehabilitates existing infrastructure</li> <li>- how it addresses safety or ADA issues</li> <li>- how it benefits the local transportation environment</li> <li>- demonstrated public involvement</li> <li>-complete plans with ROW acquisition issues and utilities impact</li> </ul>
Evaluation	Can funds be used to acquire Right-of-Way?	Acquisition of Right of Way is eligible, however will likely not score highly on it’s own given the criteria, timeline, and limited funding within the TA program.
SRTS	Why doesn’t MDT renew the SRTS coordinator position.	MDT is not an eligible applicant for TA funding, as such, is not in a position to create a state SRTS coordinator position using TA funds.
Timeline	What will the timeline be for the application?	The solicitation for TA applications will be announced May 8, 2015. Applications will be due July 31, 2015. Applications will be reviewed during Fall 2015.
Selection Team	Who will make up the selection team?	Planning, engineering, maintenance, and civil rights staff from MDT and FHWA.
Application Process	Why can’t MPO’s apply for funds?	MPO’s are not an eligible entity for TA funds under MAP-21 (23 USC 213(C)(4)(B)). MPO’s are not however barred from partnering with eligible entities such as city or county governments.
Application Process	Will MDT provide support during the application process?	Yes, MDT will be available for support through the application process.
Application	Can my community put in	Yes, communities may apply for multiple projects on separate

Process	applications for more than one project?	applications.
Application Process	Will electronic applications be accepted?	Only electronic applications will be accepted. Details will be provided in the solicitation. Paper applications will not be accepted.